

Belmont Human Rights Commission  
Belmont Town Hall  
June 7, 2007

## Meeting Minutes

Members present: Lisa Bernt, Janet Cudmore-Boswell, Laurie Graham, Rosalind Kabrhel, Trish Lohmar, Connie Williams, Fran Yuan (Chair).

Members absent: Judie Feins, Donna Ruvolo, Moez Rawji.

Guests and Liaisons present: Selectman Paul Solomon.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes of May 4, 2007, meeting: approved as amended (typographical corrections).
2. Phone sign-up: Trish Lohmar will check the phone line in June; Laurie Graham in July; Janet Cudmore-Boswell in August.
3. Phone line: Laurie Graham checked the calls since the last meeting. There were two calls. One caller was looking for information regarding low-income loans. Another caller is a property owner in Belmont, and reported that he had a tenant (single parent, disabled, with Section 8) who had had difficulty finding housing in Belmont. The tenant eventually found housing, but not after being turned down for housing in other places in Belmont. Laurie will follow up. If the caller or tenant needs information regarding her legal rights, Lisa Bernt will put together some information regarding fair housing, and how to make a formal complaint with the appropriate authorities if necessary.
5. Voting on sponsoring events: The Commission currently makes decisions on matters by a simple majority vote. There was discussion of whether to require something other than a simple majority vote when deciding whether to co-sponsor events.
6. Proposed legislation, generally: The Commission discussed how to handle requests for support of proposed legislation. Various concerns were expressed, such as whether it was within the Commission's charge, and that the Commission does not have the expertise or research capacity to do the work necessary to properly assess any bill that might be brought before it.
7. Commission's charge: The Commission discussed the possibilities of recommending revisions to the Charge to clarify its functions.
8. Open Meeting Law: Laurie Graham briefed the Commission on Open Meeting Law requirements.
9. New appointments: Paul Solomon explained the process of selecting new members.
10. Chair position: Fran Yuan distributed a draft of job descriptions for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Laurie Graham the Chair of the Commission for one year. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the motion.
11. Tunnel project: Fran Yuan reported that a waiver was issued to move forward with the project. The Commission discussed how to organize such a project.
12. No Place for Hate: No BHRC member attended the No Place for Hate Conference on June 6. Fran Yuan will pick up the No Place for Hate Sign.

12. Police-community dialogue: Fran Yuan reported on the police-community dialogue on June 6.

13. Presentation to Board of Selectman: Fran Yuan reported on the presentation to the Board of Selectman at the June 3 meeting.

14. Concert/Open House event: The Commission discussed the event. Fran Yuan will gather information regarding possible dates and venues for a fall event.

15. Meet Belmont: The Commission discussed Meet Belmont event, and whether and when it might be held, given that the previous organizers of the event will no longer be doing it.

16. Next Meeting: The Commission's next meeting will be on September 6, 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Lisa Bernt, final minutes (as amended) submitted by Laurie Graham